(b) if so, the present position in this regard;

(c) whether urea is a controlled item, whereas phosphatic and potassic fertilizers were decontrolled and whether this has led to a distortion in their use over the last few years; if so, what steps Government have so far taken in this regard;

(d) whether there is a proposal to import fertilizers to meet the situation; if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government have reviewed or propose to review the fertilizer pricing and subsidy policies to correct the nutrient imbalance in the soil; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN): (a) to (c) Urea is the only fertiliser which is under statutory price control, at present. Price, distribution and movement control on Phosphatic and Potassic fertilisers has been lifted with effect from 25.8.1992. The decontrol of these fertilisers resulted in steep hike in their prices leading to distortion in their use. In order to cushion the impact of this price hike and to correct distortion in NPK ratio, the Government of India has been implementing a scheme of concession on sale of these decontrolled fertilisers with effect from 1.10.1992. The decline in the use of phosphatic and potassic fertilisers has been arrested in 1994-95 and the NPK consumption ratio has also improved from 9.7:2.9:1 in 1993-94 to 8.4:2.6:1 in 1994-95 as can be seen from the table below:

Year	Consumption (Lakh tonnes)				NPK
	N	P	K	Total	ratio
1992-93	84.27	28.44	8.84	121.55	9.5:3.2:1
1993-94	87.89	26.69	9.08	123.66	9.7:2.9:1
1994-95	95.07	29.32	11.25	135.64	8.4:2.6:1

(d) At present, imports of urea alone is canalised. The imports of phosphatic and potassic fertilisers are decanalised. During 1995-96, 34.97 lakh tonnes urea have been imported between April, 1995 and February, 1996 on Government account. About 14.47 lakh tonnes Di-Ammonium Phosphate and 17.02 lakh tonnes Muriate of Potash have been imported between April-December, 1995.

(e) At present no change in the fertiliser pricing and subsidy policy is envisaged.

Prices of Pulses

978. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increase in the prices of pulses;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) the steps taken to arrest the increase in the prices of pulses; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN): (a) to (d) The increase in the prices of 'pulses' as a group is currently in consonance with the rise in general wholesale prices although the prices of certain pulses are still ruling high due to demand supply imbalances. In order to augment the supply, the import of pulses is being allowed under O.G.L. at a nominal customs duty of 5 per cent. Also, the Pulses (Storage Control) Order, 1977, has been amended to exclude imported pulses from the purview of storage limits prescribed under the said Order.

Donations by SAIL

979. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 290 given in Rajya Sabha on 15th December, 1995 and state:

(a) the reasons and justification of giving donations by SAIL to several foundations;

(b) whether Government propose to probe the donations of SAIL by CBI; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) SAIL being one of the biggest public sector undertakings, shares the country's concern for economic and social development. Hence, Board of Directors of the Company (SAIL) sanction, every year, certain amounts for donations within the limit prescribed under the Companies Act, 1956 for providing financial help for undertaking welfare/developmental/construction works for medical, educational, cultural and sports promotion activities etc., spread all over the country.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Oil Palm India Limited

980. SHRI THENNALA BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal for the improvement of functioning of the Oil Palm India Limited, Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The present processing facilities are not adequate, hence it is proposed to modernise the existing processing facilities so that the entire fruit will be processed. Feasibility studies are being made. The Technology Mission on Oilseeds and Pulses has sanctioned Rs. 57.702 lakhs for setting up of a seed garden to produce tenera hybrid variety seeds at Thodupuzha and it is being set up.

Small and Marginal Farmers

981. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the appropriate number of small and marginal farmers in the country, State and Union Territory-wise;

(b) the schemes sponsored by the Central Government for their integrated development;

(c) the Central assistance granted to the State of Orissa and other States also for implementing those schemes during the Eighth Plan: and

(d) the year-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN): (a) State-wise distribution of Small and Marginal holdings as per 1990-91 census is given in the enclosed statement-I (*See* below)

(b) to (d) A scheme for infrastructural development for and marginal farmers was implemented during 1992-93 and 1993-94. Details of Central assistance released to the States/UTs including Orissa are given in the enclosed Statement-II (*See* below)

The Government have set up a Small Farmers' Agri-Business Consortium as a society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. The SFAC would attempt to develop Agro-business activities which would help the Small and Marginal Farmers through backward/forward linkages to have better returns.

Besides, a number of other schemes for agricultural development are also being implemented in all States including Orissa which benefit all farmers including Small and Marginal Farmers.

Statement-I

State-wise Distribution of small and Marginal holdings, 1990-91

(thousands)

S. No.	State/U.T.	Marginal	Small
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5211	1972
2.	Assam	1451*	546*
3.	Bihar	8976*	1327*
4.	Gujarat	924	915
5.	Haryana	622	304
6.	Himachal Pradesh	538	168
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	901	197
8.	Karnataka	2262	1586
9.	Kerala	5016	281
10.	Madhya Pradesh	3136	1917
11.	Maharashtra	3275	2728
12.	Manipur	69	49
13.	Meghalaya	59	42
14.	Nagaland	13	21
15.	Orissa	2118	1035
16.	Punjab	296	284
17.	Rajasthan	1517	1019
18.	Sikkim	26	11
19.	Tamil Nadu	5048	1275
20.	Tripura	217	69
21.	Uttar Pradesh	14819	3118
22.	West Bengal	4639	1107
23.	Arunachal Pradesh	16	17
24.	Chandigarh	1	Neg.
25.	D & N Haveli	4	4
26.	Delhi	26	8
27.	Goa	58	8
28.	Lakshadweep	6	Neg.
29.	Mizoram	29	23
30.	Pondicharry	26	5